

Appl. No. 10/654,789
Amdt. Dated September 1, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

REMARKS

The Applicants have reviewed the Office action dated August 13, 2004 and made final. The Applicants thank Examiner Dunwoody for his detailed review of the pending claims. In response to the Office action the Applicants have amended claim 4. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-14, and 16-21 remain pending in the present application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. In view of the amendment to claim 4, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Specifically, claim 4 is amended to change the claim dependancy from claim 1 to claim 2. Accordingly, the phrase "said second sealing bead" now has proper antecedent basis. The rejection is overcome and the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow the claim.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office action rejects claim 1-2, 5-10, 14 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,093,108 to Moulinet. The Applicants again respectfully traverse the rejection.

As previously discussed the Moulinet patent fails to teach each limitation of the claimed invention as is required to sustain a rejection under §102(b). Specifically, the Moulinet patent fails to teach the novel limitation of at least one sealing bead located on an end surface of a sealing area. Instead, the Moulinet patent teaches two grooves or channels on a top surface of a sealing area, but fails to teach any beads located on the end surface of the sealing area.

The Examiner argues that a bead is defined by the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed., as "a projecting rim, band or molding" and hence, the definition is a teaching of at least one sealing bead located on an end surface of a sealing area by the Moulinet

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patent. The definition of bead, nor the Moulinet patent, teach a bead located on the end surface of the sealing area.

Directing the Examiner's attention to Figure 2 of the Moulinet patent, there is no disclosure of a bead on the end surface. Further, none of the additional Figures or the specification of the Moulinet patent disclose a bead on this end surface.

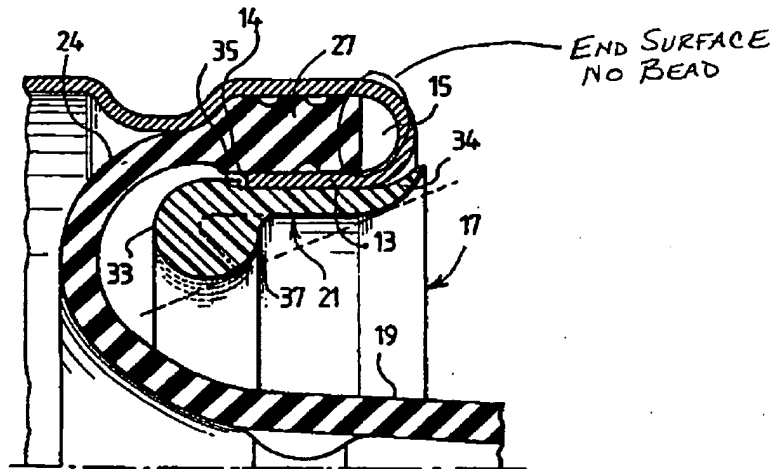


FIG. 2

In contrast, referring to Figure 6 of the present application, the end surface includes a sealing bead (48). As claimed, the sealing bead is located on an end surface of the sealing area.

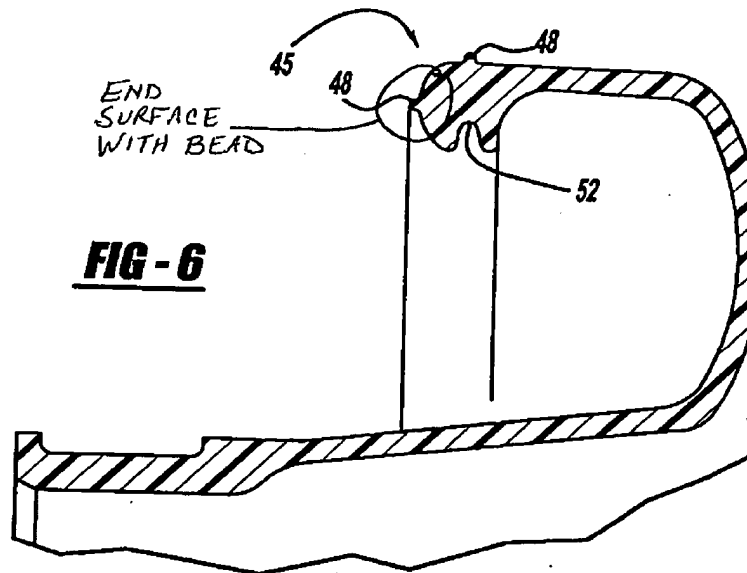


FIG - 6

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Accordingly, the Moulinet patent fails to teach each limitation of the independent claims, specifically, a sealing bead on the end surface of the sealing area. Further, the dependent claims add additional features to the patentable independent claims and are also patentable. For at least these reasons claims 1-2, 5-10, 14 and 18-21 are patentable and the Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office action rejects claims 4, 12, 13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moulinet. The Applicants again respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the arguments made above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

First, as a matter of clarification, the Examiner repeatedly states "it *would not be* obvious to one skilled in the art to position the second sealing bead approximately 90° from the first sealing bead" (emphasis added). The Applicants are proceeding under the assumption that the Examiner intended to state that the feature *would be* obvious in view of the fact that the rejection of the claims is maintained and made final in the present Office action.

Again, claims 4, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are dependent claims adding additional features to the patentable subject matter of independent claims 1, 7 and 14. For at least this reason they are patentable.

Additionally, regarding claims 4, 12 and 16, one skilled in the art would not find it obvious to position a second sealing bead approximately 90° from the first sealing bead wherein one of the sealing beads is already positioned on an end surface of the sealing area as defined in the respective independent claims. There is no motivation or suggestion in the Moulinet patent to replace the two parallel sealing beads with sealing beads of the claimed invention orientated approximately 90° apart. For at least this reason the claims are patentable and the Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner pass the case to issue.

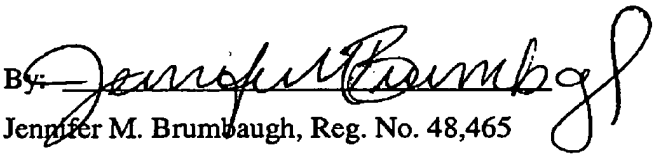
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It is believe that there is no fee due with the Amendment. However, if a fee is due please charge deposit account 07-1360 under reference number G00343/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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